

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

COUNTRY East Germany **REPORT** _____

TOPIC Military Activity in Altenburg and the Area of the XXVIII Gds 25X1

Mtz Rifle Corps 25X1

EVALUATION _____ **PLACE OBTAINED** _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT _____ 25X1

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REFERENCES _____

PAGES 5 **ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)** _____ 25X1

REMARKS _____ This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1

1. Between 9 and 15 ⁰October 1954, the barracks installation east of Leipziger Strasse (8002) in Altenburg was occupied by an estimated 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and black-bordered crimson epaulets. On 9 ⁰October, 10 x 100-mm At guns in firing position and approximately 100 soldiers were seen in the area north of the installation. 25X1

2. Between 9 and 15 October, the barracks installation west of Leipziger Strasse (8001) in Altenburg was occupied by an estimated 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. On 9 October, 6 x 152-mm gun howitzers were seen in the installation and 5 x 85-mm AT guns in firing position were in the area north of the installation. The barrels of the AT guns had telescopic sights mounted on them. Soldiers practiced firing at moving targets. 25X1

3. On 15 October, two columns came from the direction of the kasernes and proceeded toward the town. The first column consisted of 22 trucks including 3 trucks with ammunition, 12 trucks towing medium AT guns and occupied by 14 soldiers each, and 2 radio trucks. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The second column consisted of 20 trucks including 8 trucks towing 85-mm AT guns and occupied by 14 soldiers each, 2 trucks with field kitchens, 1 ambulance and 3 radio trucks.

On 16 October, the installation east of Leipziger Strasse was occupied by approximately 500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and the installation west of Leipziger Strasse was occupied by approximately 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and, a few, with motor transport insignia. Approximately 40 soldiers received instruction on 3 x 152-mm gun howitzers in the yard of the installation west of Leipziger Strasse. Approximately 120 soldiers drilled.¹

4. On 10 October, approximately 2,000 recruits wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets arrived in Weimar on 58 boxcars and marched to the Tannenberg Kaserne (8502). 25X1

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5. Between 12 and 18 October, the following troop shipments left Weimar in the directions indicated:
 - 12 October: 70 recruits toward Eisenach;
150 soldiers toward Gera;
 - 16 October: 100 discharges toward Berlin;
30 boxcars in an undetermined direction;
 - 18 October: 500 recruits toward Naumburg;
Several groups of discharges in an undetermined direction.

Other groups of discharges arrived in Weimar on 18 October.
6. On 10 October, the Luetzendorf Kaserne (8503) in Weimar was occupied as follows by at least 1,200 soldiers: the first eastward building by signal and motor transport units, the second and third building by soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets, the fourth building by artillery and motor transport units, and the west section of the installation by the hospital.
7. Between 12 and 18 October, all military installations in Weimar appeared to be occupied to capacity.¹
8. On 15 October, a troop train with 8 to 10 tanks and several trucks left Arnstadt toward the east.²
9. At 1900 on 20 October, a troop train passed through the Jena railroad station. It came from the west, proceeded toward Gera and carried 20 trucks, 10 to 12 tractors, 10 to 12 guns and, on about 10 boxcars, an undetermined number of personnel.¹
10. On 18 October, soldiers received instruction on 6 x 100-mm AT guns, and 4 x 122-mm howitzers in the Reuss Kaserne (8141) in Gera. The installation appeared to be occupied as previously.
11. On 15 and 18 October, the Panzer Kaserne (8142) in Tinz was occupied by at least 200 soldiers. The occupation strength appeared to have increased slightly. Aiming was practiced with 3 T-34/85 tanks.
12. On 7 October, exercises were no longer held at the Forst Zeitz training area. The approach roads to the Friedenssiedlung (settlement) were blocked and guarded by sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. Vehicles and weapons observed in the settlement included 2 T-34/85 tanks, 4 YA-12 prime movers, 2 x 100-mm AT guns, 2 x 76-mm AT guns and 8 trucks.
13. On 8 October, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz was again occupied by an estimated 800 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including

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some with tank insignia. A Soviet soldier stated that the units had returned from the Zeitz Forest. [redacted]

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14. Units from the [redacted] Kaserne and the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz reportedly left [redacted] Jena during the nights prior to 15 October.
15. On 15 and 16 October, the Reuss Kaserne was occupied by an estimated 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black and, a few, black-bordered red epaulets. About 25 percent of the windows of the installation were lit at dusk. Eight guns, presumably 100-mm AT guns, were seen in a gun shed. Motor vehicles [redacted] entered and left the installation.
16. On 15 October, approximately 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia were lined up for a roll call in the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz. On 16 October, soldiers were drilled in the barracks yard.¹
17. During the night on 21 October, major units were unloaded at the Gera railroad station. At 0100, approximately 15 T-34/85 tanks and several trucks entered the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz and 8 tractors with 100-mm AT guns and several small truck columns entered the Reuss Kaserne.¹
18. On 21 October, loadings and preparations for other loading were observed at the Crawinkel railroad station. Approximately 20 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] about 5 SU-100 guns and 10 trucks were seen during the loadings.¹
19. On 14 October, approximately 200 soldiers cleaned 12 to 15 rocket launchers and motor vehicles in the Prinz Louis Ferdinand Kaserne (8481) in Saalfeld. The installation appeared to be occupied to capacity by an estimated 1,500 soldiers. According to the condition of weapons and equipment, the unit had only recently returned from an exercise.³
20. Between 13 and 15 October, the Prinz Louis Ferdinand Kaserne in Saalfeld was occupied by approximately 400 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, 200 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets and 200 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets. On 25 October, a truck with 3 engineer officers was seen at the Hohenwarthe dam.⁵
21. Between 4 and 8 October, the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) east of Friedens Strasse in Zeitz was occupied by approximately 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and a military band of 25 to 30 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets. [redacted]
22. Between 4 and 8 October, the Artillerie Kaserne (8542) west of Friedens Strasse in Zeitz was occupied as previously by approximately 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including 50 soldiers with tank insignia. On 8 October, T-34/85 tank [redacted] left the installation.

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23. On 12 October, fresh imprints of tank tracks led into the two installations on Friedens Strasse. Approximately 30 tanks and 10 SP guns reportedly entered the Artillerie Kaserne from the direction of the Zeitz Forest on that day. T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were seen in the Artillerie Kaserne and SU-100 gun [redacted] was seen in the Infanterie Kaserne. The occupation of the two installations appeared to have increased.
24. On 24 October, two columns left the Infanterie and the Artillerie Kaserne for entraining at the Zeitz freight station. The first column consisted of 32 to 35 trucks, 57-mm AT guns, 1 tank truck and approximately 180 soldiers. The second column consisted of T-34/85 tanks [redacted] approximately 15 trucks, 4 x 120-mm mortars and 150 to 200 soldiers wearing artillery and tank insignia. Motor vehicle [redacted] and jeep [redacted] occupied by a colonel of the armored command were seen. Railroadmen stated that the two shipments left toward Weissenfels.
25. Between 14 and 18 October, the Infanterie Kaserne and the Artillerie Kaserne on Friedens Strasse were occupied by only 50 soldiers each. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets. At 0600 on 19 October, approximately 30 trucks with 4 x 57-mm AT guns and 3 x 120-mm mortars reportedly entered the Infanterie Kaserne. T-34/85 tanks [redacted] and SU-100 guns [redacted] which came from the railroad station entered the Artillerie Kaserne. At 0630, approximately 150 soldiers were lined up in the yard of the Artillerie Kaserne.¹
26. Between 28 September and 18 October, the barracks installation in Jena-Loebstedt (8222) was occupied as previously. In the evening on 13 October, 6 of the 8 barracks of the installation were fully lighted. Two buildings were dark. On 28 September, T-34 tanks [redacted] left the installation, presumably for the Altendorf training grounds. On 30 September, 9 T-34 tanks returned from an exercise. On several days, sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were alternately observed at the barracks gate. On 15 October, firing was heard from the Altendorf training area throughout the day. On 18 October, 15 T-34 tanks entered the installation from the direction of Altendorf-Goeschwitz.
27. On 18 October, the barracks installation (8221) in Jena-Zwaetzen was still vacant. The Forst Kaserne (8225) in Jena was still vacant on 16 October and the Polizei Kaserne (8223) in Jena was still vacant on 13 October.¹
28. Between 13 and 15 October, the Prinz Eugen Kaserne (8462) and the Flak Kaserne (8461) in Rudolstadt were occupied to capacity. On 13 October, 6 heavy AA guns were again observed in front of the main gate of the Prinz Eugen Kaserne. Sentries seen wore red-bordered black epaulets. The Flak Kaserne was occupied by approximately 1,500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black, black-bordered black and blue-bordered black epaulets.³
1. Comment. Available information indicates the following movements of the 20th Gds Mecz Div and elements of army troops of the Eighth

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Gds Army and corps troops of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps:

14/15 October. Elements of the 67th Gds Mecz Regt, the 36th Tank Regt, major elements of the 38th AT Brig, elements of the 308th Arty Brig and the tank training battalion left the posts.

13 to 18 October. The bulk of the elements of the 20th Gds Mecz Div stationed in Jena was absent from the post.

19 October. Elements of the 67th Gds Mecz Regt and the 36th Tank Regt returned to Zeitz.

21 October. Elements of the 66th Gds Mecz Regt and the 68th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt were entrained in the Ohrdruf area.

21/22 October. Elements of the 308th Arty Brig and the tank training battalion returned to Gera. A shipment of the 308th Arty Brig passed through Jena on 20 October and another shipment was seen passing through Erfurt.

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These observations quite definitely indicate that the final exercise of the 20th Gds Mecz Div reinforced by army and corps troops was conducted between about 15 to 18 October, presumably in the Ohrdruf area. The elements of the division stationed in Weimar did not participate in this exercise since the Weimar installations were occupied to capacity at that time.

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2. Comment. elements of the 66th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div returned to the Jena post from the Ohrdruf training area. The information is questionable since the bulk of the elements of the 20th Gds Mecz Div stationed in Jena undoubtedly returned to their post after 15 October. See Field Comment 1.
3. Comment. The observations in Saalfeld and Rudolstadt indicate that the corps troops stationed there, the 316th Gds RL Regt, the 497th AAA Regt and the engineer and signal units returned to the posts from the training grounds between 13 and 15 October.

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